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NAPHTHALENE RECOMMENDED
FOR THERAPEUTIC PURPOSES

Professor Z. Mamedov
Honored Worker of Science
Baku

The use of naphthalene for therapeutic purposes is one of the most pressing problems in Soviet health-resort technology. All doubts concerning the value of this material would be dispelled if the record of the well known "Naftalan" Health Resort were studied.

Napthalene has many valuable properties. It decreases algesic syndromes, speeds up regenerative processes, and increases muscular tonus. It has also been used for allaying rheumatic pains, myopathy, and pains in the vascular and peripheral nervous systems. It has also proven useful in the treatment of radiculitis, plexitis, neuritis, neuralgia, and sciatica.

Many have used naphthalene to good effect. Ryvazov, Ismail-Zade, Dzharafarov, and others have tested the action of naphthalene on eczema, psoriasis, and other forms of dermatitis under clinical conditions, and have reported only satisfactory results. Professor Mamedov has proved without doubt that naphthalene produces good results in the treatment of all degrees of burns.

In spite of all the facts presented in favor of naphthalene, there appears to be a reticence for using it in general medical practice. It is suggested, therefore, that a comprehensive etiologic study be made, to determine the mechanics of its healing power and its effects if administered parenterally. It is urged that competent authorities in Azerbaydzhani as well as Moscow be informed of its therapeutic value and that it be made available for general use as expeditiously as possible. The initiative for such a program lies with the Ministry of Health Azerbaydzhani SSR.

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